

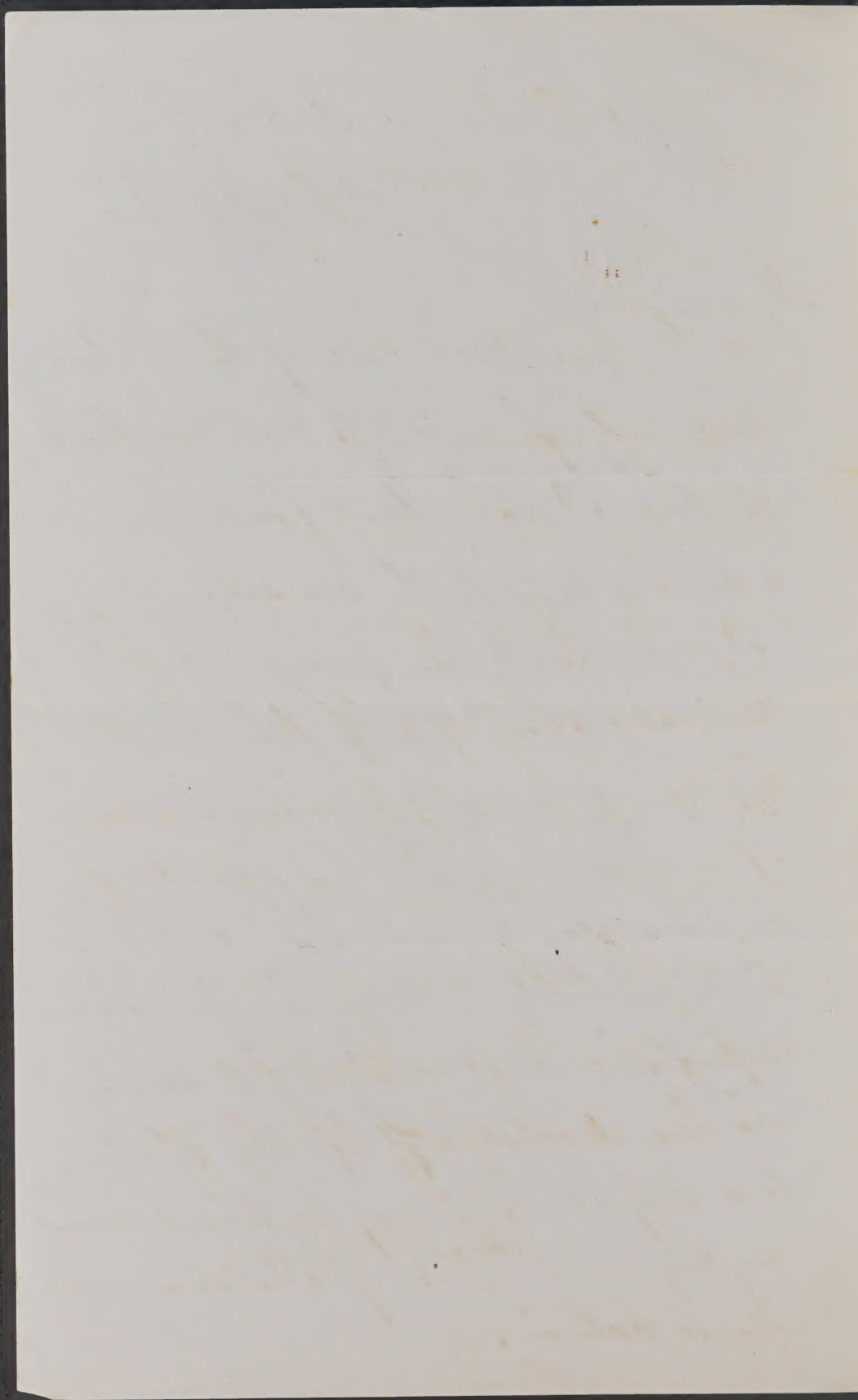
31 Cathedral St. Baltimore

30<sup>th</sup> October 1869

My dear Sir

Your kind note of the 4<sup>th</sup> June  
was duly forwarded to me, though at  
the time I was absent from home on  
a summer trip to the sea-side.

I could hardly have promised myself  
the gratification of note from you, much  
less one of evidently sincere commendation.  
If such an honor had been predicted for  
me years ago, I would have disbelieved  
in the possibility. Because, I know how  
superficial must seem <sup>to</sup> English scholars  
who have devoted a ~~of~~ life time of study  
to a subject which may be termed national  
anything which an <sup>American</sup> student of Shakespeare could  
hope to achieve.





My purpose now in writing to you  
again is, not to put you to the  
trouble of replying; but to beg  
you to pardon the liberty I now  
take of sending you the inclosed  
Photograph; and at the same  
time to assure you that, if you  
had one of yourself which you  
could conveniently return to me,  
it would most surely be looked  
at with interest by many others  
in this country ~~than~~ beside,

Very respectfully & truly yours

Chas. W. Stearns

J. Payne Collier Esq  
Middelhut End

*[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher.]*